

Preliminary Amendment

Attorney Reference: 070662/0290730

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REMARKS

The present amendment adds reference to the priority applications to the specification and further amends Claims 3-6, 10, 12, 18-21 and 23 to remove multiple dependencies from the claims. No new matter has been added.

Favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Appendix

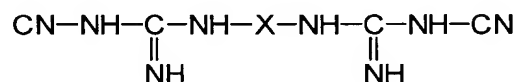
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APPENDIX: VERSION TO SHOWS CHANGES MADE TO APPLICATION

In the Claims

The claims were amended as follows:

3. (Amended) An antimicrobial polymer according to [either] claim 1 [or claim 2] wherein chromophoric marker comprises a chromophoric group which has a major absorption and/or emission band in the range of from 275 to 1500 nm.
4. (Amended) An antimicrobial polymer according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the chromophoric group is a fluorescent group.
5. (Amended) An antimicrobial polymer according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the chromophoric marker is covalently bound to the antimicrobial polymer as a pendant group or a terminal group on the polymer chain, or as an in-chain group in the polymer chain.
6. (Amended) An antimicrobial polymer according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the chromophoric marker is present as a terminal or pendant group on the polymer chain and the antimicrobial polymer to which the chromophoric marker is bound is an antimicrobial poly(quaternary ammonium) compound, a polymeric guanide or a polymeric biguanide.
10. (Amended) An antimicrobial polymer according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1 obtainable by co-polymerising a chromophoric marker, a bisdicyandiamide having the formula:



and a diamine H₂N-Y-NH₂, wherein X and Y are as defined in claim 8.

12. (Amended) An antimicrobial polymer according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the covalent bond between the chromophoric marker and polymer is formed by means of one or more reactive functional group on the chromophoric marker which is capable of forming a covalent bond with the polymer and/or monomer precursors used to make the polymer.

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18. (Amended) A composition comprising antimicrobial polymers at least one of which is an antimicrobial polymer according to [any one of claims 1 to 16] claim 1.

19. (Amended) A composition comprising a carrier and an antimicrobial polymer according to [any one of claims 1 to 16] claim 1 or a composition according to claim 18.

20. (Amended) A method for inhibiting microbiological growth on, or in, a medium which comprises treating the medium with an antimicrobial polymer according to [any one of claims 1 to 16] claim 1 or a composition according to claim 18 [or claim 19].

21. (Amended) A method for detecting an antimicrobial polymer according to [any one of claims 1 to 18] claim 1 on or in a medium comprising the steps:

- (a) subjecting a sample of the medium containing an antimicrobial polymer to a detection means whereby the presence of the chromophoric marker in the antimicrobial polymer generates a detection signal; and optionally
- (b) calculating the concentration of the antimicrobial polymer from the detection signal generated in step (a).

23. (Amended) A method for maintaining the concentration of an antimicrobial polymer according to [any one of claims 1 to 18] claim 1 in a medium at or above a target concentration comprising the steps:

- (a) measuring the concentration of the antimicrobial polymer in the medium using the method according to claim 21 [or claim 22];
- (b) comparing the measured concentration with the target concentration; and
- (c) adding a sufficient quantity of further antimicrobial polymer to the medium to maintain the concentration of the antimicrobial polymer in the medium at or above the target concentration.

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